

Message Text

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O R 191238Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230737

EXDIS

BEIRUT FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (BUTZ, EARL)

SUBJECT: VISIT BY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO CAIRO AND
DAMASCUS

1. AT SUGGESTION OF SECRETARY, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ IS PLANNING TO VISIT CAIRO AND DAMASCUS DURING PERIOD HIS PARTICIPATION IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME IN FIRST HALF NOVEMBER. SECRETARY BUTZ' INTEREST IS IN MEETING WITH TOP EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE OFFICIALS BUT HE WOULD OF COURSE BE AVAILABLE ALSO FOR COURTESY CALLS ON SENIOR POLITICAL FIGURES IF DESIRED BY GOE AND SARG.

2. FOR CAIRO: AMBASSADOR SHOULD INFORM GOE THAT SECRETARY BUTZ WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO VISIT CAIRO BETWEEN
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NOVEMBER 9 AND 11 ASSUMING GOE AGREEABLE. WHILE THERE,

SECRETARY BUTZ WOULD PLAN TO DISCUSS PL 480 WITH GOE AND CARRY THROUGH EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON PL 480 AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT.

3. FOR DAMASCUS: AMBASSADOR SHOULD INFORM SARG THAT SECRETARY BUTZ WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO VISIT DAMASCUS NOVEMBER 12, DEPARTING FOR ROME MORNING OF NOVEMBER 13. AMBASSADOR SHOULD ALSO EXPLAIN THAT SECRETARY BUTZ WOULD BE COMING FROM CAIRO WHERE HE WOULD HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH GOE OFFICIALS AND THAT PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT TO DAMASCUS WOULD BE TO DEMONSTRATE EQUALITY OF STATUS WITH WHICH WE VIEW GOE AND SARG. FYI AT THIS MOMENT WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT STATUS OF SYRIAN PL 480 AGREEMENT LIKELY TO BE AT TIME OF SECRETARY BUTZ' VISIT. WE WILL ADVISE YOU ON THIS LATER. END FYI.

4. FOLLOWING IS SECRETARY BUTZ' TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 9 - ARRIVE CAIRO FROM ROME

NOVEMBER 10/11 - MEETINGS WITH EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE OFFICIALS AND CALLS ON SENIOR POLITICAL FIGURES IF DESIRED, AND SIGHTSEEING ES SPPROPRIATE.

EVENING NOVEMBER 11 - DEPART CAIRO FOR DAMASCUS

NOVEMBER 12 ALL DAY IN DAMASCUS FOR MEETINGS WITH SYRIAN AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE OFFICIALS, CALLS ON SENIOR POLITICAL FIGURES IF DESIRED, AND SIGHTSEEING AS APPROPRIATE.

MORNING NOVEMBER 13 - DEPART DAMASCUS FOR ROME.

5. ALL TRAVEL WOULD BE BY SPECIAL USG AIRCRAFT. SECRETARY BUTZ PARTY WOULD PROBABLY CONSIST OF ABOUT 10-15 PERSONS.

6. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST HOST GOVERNMENT REACTION. KISSINGER

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